



Rule Adoption Notice

Chapter 173-160-381(3) WAC, Standards for Decommissioning Dug Wells

As a result of legislation passed in 2003 (ESSB 5766) Ecology is required to send out notification to businesses affected by rule adoptions. To comply with this law and to keep the regulated community better informed of Ecology rule adoptions, you are receiving this notification of a rule adoption.

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For more information:

Online visit the Well Construction website:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/well_home.html

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the **WAC Track** e-mail list. Go to:
www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

Requirements of the rule

This rule making adopts an amendment to Chapter 173-160-381 WAC. This section of the rule regulates the decommissioning of wells.

Summary of the rule changes adopted on February 21, 2007

Ecology adopted an amendment to make a technical correction to Chapter 173-160 WAC, Minimum Standards for Construction and Maintenance of Wells that was adopted on November 21, 2006. In particular, Ecology amended WAC 173-160-381 (3)(c), 3(d), 3(e), and 3(f), the Standards for Decommissioning Dug Wells, by removing the word "Otherwise" and including the phrase "The remainder of" in these subsections. The error was corrected to avoid confusion by those who will use the rule.

Chapter 173-160-381(3) WAC

(3) Dug wells –

(c) Dug wells that have a static water level of ten feet from land surface or less and a depth of less than twenty feet may be decommissioned by installing clean chlorinated sand or pea gravel to a maximum depth of ten feet below land surface. ~~Otherwise,~~ The remainder of the well shall be filled with either unhydrated bentonite, neat cement, neat cement grout, or concrete.

(d) Dug wells that have a static water level over ten feet and a depth of less than twenty feet from land surface may be decommissioned by installing clean chlorinated sand or pea gravel to the static level. ~~Otherwise,~~ The remainder of the well shall be filled with either unhydrated bentonite, neat cement, neat cement grout, or cement.

(e) Dug wells with static levels twenty feet or less from the land surface and that are greater than twenty feet deep may be decommissioned by placing chlorinated sand or pea gravel to twenty feet below land surface. ~~Otherwise,~~ The remainder of the well, to a maximum of three feet below land surface, shall be filled with unhydrated bentonite, neat cement, neat cement grout, or concrete.

(f) Dug wells with static levels below twenty feet from land surface, may be decommissioned by placing chlorinated sand or pea gravel to the static level and then placing alternating layers of sealing material and chlorinated sand or pea gravel to within twenty feet of land surface. The alternating layers of sand or pea gravel must be a maximum of five feet thick. The minimum thickness of the sealing material layers must be five feet. ~~Otherwise,~~ The remainder of the dug well shall be filled with unhydrated bentonite, neat cement, neat cement grout, or concrete to a maximum of three feet below land surface.

Effective

This amendment to Chapter 173-160-381(3) WAC becomes effective on March 25, 2007.

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For additional information about appealing this adoption, please contact Jerry Thielen, Ecology's Regulatory Affairs Manager at (360) 407-7551 or by email jthi461@ecy.wa.gov.